

Mary Lou Terrien

From: jk w <jodikwatson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:06 AM
To: Mary Lou Terrien
Subject: Fwd: A Concerned Grand Rapids Homeowner Opposed to HB 5232

I understand there is a hearing today on this topic, and I'd like my written statement to be considered as part of the public record.

Thank you!

Jodi Watson

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jodi Watson <jodiwatson@gmail.com>
Date: February 23, 2016 at 1:08:39 PM EST
To: LeeChatfield@house.mi.gov, AmandaPrice@house.mi.gov, kurtheise@house.mi.gov, DavidMaturen@house.mi.gov, JimRunestad@house.mi.gov, JasonSheppard@house.mi.gov, LanaTheis@house.mi.gov, jeremymoss@house.mi.gov, charlesbrunner@house.mi.gov, davidrutledge@house.mi.gov, SheldonNeeley@house.mi.gov, ChrisAfendoulis@house.mi.gov
Cc: Kirby Watson <kirby@kirbywatson.com>, Jodi Watson <jodikwatson@hotmail.com>
Subject: A Concerned Grand Rapids Homeowner Opposed to HB 5232

Dear Michigan/Government Representative,

Please do not infringe on our private property right to choose to own a house that is protected by a National, State and Local historic district.

Six years ago, my husband and I bought a home in Heritage Hill in Grand Rapids built in 1874. It is a magnificent home, which required significant restoration. Over the course of approximately three years, we have completely renovated every aspect of the home - inside and out; it's been on the Heritage Home Historic Home Tour, the Garden Tour and featured several times in Grand Rapids Magazine from 2011-2015.

Our interest and personal decision in buying a home in this neighborhood was due to the majesty of the houses, the proximity to downtown, and the fact that it was a preserved and protected neighborhood. **This is, was, and should continue to be OUR RIGHT and choice as property buyers.** We have seen, first hand, what happens when there are no protections to these homes. They are ruined, destroyed, razed or slowly destroyed if not protected; this results in aesthetic damage as well as impacts our property values. For example, in our home, prior to 1970 (when protections were put into place), someone decided it was "wise" to eliminate the beautiful, ornate carved solid wooden columns that flanked the original *porte cochere* in favor of a cinder block and cheap aluminum window covered porch. You can imagine the blight that adds to the house, and actually takes away from both the value of our home and the view for our neighbors. This could not happen today due to the current protections and preservation of this historic district, and we choose to live and own here as a result.

The proposed HB 5232 jeopardizes my rights as a homeowner by allowing changes to my historic home and neighborhood that are not in keeping with the Department of Interior guidelines. This jeopardizes our National designation and can result in the loss of tax credits for historic repairs on income producing properties.

I also don't want decisions regarding historic repairs based on politics. Allowing politicians to rule on alterations rather than citizens that are knowledgeable in historic guidelines opens the door to political favors and clout.

PA 169 has a proven track record of protecting Michigan's historic treasures, and it has fostered millions of private investment dollars. There is no reason to minimize this highly successful public act. There is no reason to minimize this highly successful public act. I ask that you protect my property right and my investment under the current rule of PA 169 and oppose any legislation to change it.

Sincerely,

Jodi & Kirby Watson
222 Fountain Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503